

New & antique

Its merchandise is dated, but Antiques at Candlelight has taken a new approach to peddling old goods. Betty Hoyt, left, and her co-owners have converted a gas station into three shops specializing in handmade country furniture. See Page 17A.



Stretch

Brad Bollinger and the rest of the Missouri baseball team took to Simmons Field Tuesday night against the South-west Missouri State Bears. The Tigers, behind the stellar pitching of Dave Biscan and Dave Otto, came out on top, 6-0. See Page 14A.



Petal pushers

A rose, by any other name, still is delicious. The roots of flower eating go back to Queen Elizabeth I. You may think folks who dine on dandelions are blooming idiots, but today's food section has recipes to weed out the myths about garden gourmets. See Page 1B.



Columbia Missourian

76th Year — No. 186

Good Morning! It's Wednesday, April 25, 1984

6 Sections — 44 Pages — 25 Cents



Hind sight

Is big sister watching? Hardly. These two horses were enjoying the warm spring weather and the grass Tuesday un-

der the stare of a billboard on Highway 63 North. The billboard is an advertisement for a nightclub in Columbia.

Linda Steiler

City studies ways to push UMC funds

By Mary McNamara
Missourian staff writer

The Columbia Area Economic Development Commission decided Tuesday to hold a special brainstorming session in two weeks to discuss possible ways for the city to muster state financial support for the University.

The decision is in marked contrast with some of the commissioners' initial focus that the city gain economic independence from a financially troubled University. That initial plan was to bring in other industries that would offset the economic effects on the community of a declining University.

At next month's brainstorming session, commission members hope to develop a program of financial assistance for higher education here that would be included in their budget. The commission must present its budget to the City Council by June 1.

The commission has been given \$160,000 this year for the promotional effort. The new plan could mean an increase in that budget request.

Assistant City Manager Bob Black offered his full cooperation and added that if the commission did come up with a program, he was confident the City Council would fund it.

Although no specifics were suggested by the commissioners, the idea of a city lobbyist to gain support for the University in the Legislature has been discussed for some time. Sixth Ward Councilman Matt McCormick said last month.

At Tuesday's commission meeting, Richard Mendenhall, president of Boone Realty, sparked the discussion by saying that in the past week three University professors came to him with the intention of selling their homes and "bailing out of Columbia" because of low salaries.

"All the stories were the same," Mendenhall said. "Like they had a tape recording. None of them wanted to leave Columbia, they all like the city. But they're being forced out. And things are getting worse by the minute."

William Kimel, dean of the school of engineering and a commission member, immediately took up Mendenhall's banner.

"We've got full professors salary sitting at \$5,000 more than bachelor

degree students start at," Kimel said. "And the professors' time is constantly being wasted by incessant evaluation forms. They don't have to put up with that. The problem is not with the programs, it's with the funding."

Mendenhall pointed out that many people aren't aware of the economic impact the University has on the community. Too often the issue gets lost in the politics of taxation during legislative sessions, he said. Or people think that the University is whining too loudly about tough times that everyone is faced with, he added.

The commission could provide a neutral medium that people would listen to, he concluded.

Commission Chairman Charlie Christy added that politicians too often brag about their campaign promises of no tax increase without realizing the harm being done to the University and, in turn, the community.

"A lot of people think of those professors as deadheads who don't do anything," Christy said. "They don't even know what the University contributes just in dollars and cents."

Commission members decided to gather people from all sectors of the community to address the problem and offer possible solutions to the financial question and to increase public awareness of the extent of the community's economic involvement.

"At worst we'll waste a couple of hours and come up with nothing," Mendenhall said. "But this is a critical situation that must be addressed for the long-term quality of the city."

In other action, the commission heard Commissioner Henry Jenkins' report on the feasibility of recruiting publishing companies to the area. After interviewing 10 local publishers and four from the Jefferson City area, the research committee recommended that the commission begin a test program of direct mailing to smaller publications.

Black said that in preparing this year's budget request, most things would remain the same with little or no increase requested. There may be a cut-back on national advertising, he said. He and the commission must decide within the near future whether to pursue an advertising campaign in Japan, but otherwise the program will remain as is.

House lottery changes draw senators' fire

JEFFERSON CITY (AP) — Missouri Senate supporters of a measure to establish a state lottery have sharply criticized a version of the plan approved by a House committee, and said the House measure never would be approved by the Senate.

The House Revenue and Economics Committee on Monday passed and sent to the full House its version of a proposed constitutional amendment which would allow Missourians to vote whether to establish a state lottery.

The Senate earlier this month approved the lottery measure, which was sponsored by Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Edwin Dirck, D-St. Ann. However, the ver-

sion approved by the House committee included several major changes, and Dirck said it would have no chance of passing in the Senate if approved by the full House in the same form.

"It stinks," said Dirck when questioned about the measure. "I'm not even going to take it up. If that's what they send over I'm going to kill it."

House Speaker Bob Griffin, D-Cameron, also said he was concerned about the many changes added by the committee and he preferred such provisions not be added to the constitution.

A key change in the House committee's version of the lottery mea-

sure was the elimination of a provision which would exempt the state's lottery revenue from the state revenue collection and spending bill, popularly known as the Hancock Amendment.

Under the Hancock Amendment, which was approved by the state's voters in 1980, if the state raises more than a certain amount of revenue under the collection bill's complex formula it would be required to return the money to the public through income tax refunds.

Rep. Wayne Goode, D-Normandy, a long-time critic of the Hancock Amendment, said keeping lottery revenues under the collection limit would increase total state revenues

closer to that limit. Goode said currently the state could raise about another \$150 million in general revenues before it reached the lid.

As a result, if the Legislature wanted to increase taxes in the future it would have to deal with the issue of either changing the spending lid or passing the revenue limit and having to make the income tax refunds.

Goode also had said reform of the state's income tax structure and tax increases were a better way to raise revenue for schools and other state needs. But Goode said the changes made by the House committee would not kill the measure for the 1984 legislative session.

Lower cost for food helps price index

WASHINGTON (AP) — Food costs tumbled for the first time since July to hold the increase in consumer prices to a mere 0.2 percent last month, leaving inflation for the year running at a moderate 5 percent annual clip, the government reported Tuesday.

The White House cheered the news as "very reassuring" and private analysts found no signs inflation was moving back into the fast lane.

In its new report, the Labor Department said food prices, paced by cheaper meat, poultry, fish, eggs and fruit, were off 0.1 percent in March after surging 1.6 percent in January and 0.6 percent in February.

Gasoline prices reversed a five-month slide to climb 1 percent in March, their biggest gain since last spring. Even so, they were still 12.4 percent below their peak of three

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Gay community seeks its own paradise

By Susan Bruninga
Missourian staff writer

INSIGHT

where they may encounter some of their friends.

Still others have come to sit at the dark tables and "cruise."

Two neatly dressed young men stroll in casually and stand by the entrance while looking around. As they enter, several pairs of eyes glance in their direction.

The two strangers walk over to the bar wary of the eyes that follow their every movement. "Who are those two guys?" asks one of the patrons as he turns to his friend. "The one in the dark pants is kinda cute."

"Now," comes the other's response, "he's too queenie."

The night spot known as Paradise Retreat starts to hop around midnight. Dancing is not the only activity, though. There are pool tables and video machines. Couples who feel like relaxing can lounge in the soft chairs around the fireplace.

Paradise Retreat: one of the key social centers for Columbia's gay community.

The festivities wind down early the next morning when most of the patrons take to their

cars and head back to the straight world.

Most of the retreat's patrons live and work in Columbia, a community where homosexuals, they say, continue to be victimized by the wrath of a discriminating heterosexual society.

They contend the discrimination ranges from being thrown out of bars for dancing with members of the same sex to being denied a job because they are homosexuals.

Mike Tucker, a student at the University, says the most significant indication of local discrimination against gay people is that the majority of the gay community is forced to remain in the closet.

Moreover, some Columbia homosexuals say that if they openly express their feelings for their close friends and lovers, they will be subjected to harassment from the straight community.

"For instance, when I was walking down the hall, I passed two guys," Tucker says. "One of them looked at me and said 'faggot.'"

Tucker says prejudice of this type is largely responsible for keeping most of Columbia's gays in the closet.

"Gay people are afraid of being harassed," he says.

"Can you imagine what would happen if,

say, Mark and I went into a restaurant, and he said something that moved me," Tucker says. "Maybe I might want to lean over and touch him on the shoulder or even kiss him."

Mark McDonald, also a University student, addressed another problem commonly experienced by local gays.

McDonald claims his landlord is trying to evict him and his roommate for being homosexuals. Nevertheless, his landlord never admitted the actual reason why he is trying to evict the two men.

"They're not stupid," McDonald says. "They're not going to say it's because we're gay."

Instead, McDonald asserts, his landlord tried to evict them for disturbing the peace when they threw a party.

"He asked the girls next door if the queers were bothering them," McDonald recalls. "Well, they're friends of ours and said 'no,' and that they were having a good time at the party."

"He told the girls that tenants never win, especially queer ones."

"It's totally in the landlord's right to ask them (gays) to leave if they're gay," Tucker

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